

# Calderhead HS Parent Council

Minutes

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026



	Actioned By:
<p><b>Present</b> Audra MacPhee, Gordon Muir, Maxine Paterson, Moira Williams, Jemma Millar, Lisa McAllister, Colin Shearer, Cllr McCulloch, Jennifer Di Mambro, Cameron Mackay.</p>	
<p><b>Apologies</b> Apologies received from Kirsteen Boyd, Cristina Radulescu, Cllr Hughes.</p>	
<p><b>Welcome</b> Audra MacPhee welcomed everyone to the meeting. Special welcome to Cameron Mackay, DHT. Minutes from last meeting circulated. Approved: Gordon Muir seconded: Lisa McAllister.</p>	
<p><b>HT Update</b></p> <p><b>Staffing</b> Nicola Paterson has been appointed as Acting FH H&amp;W. Sophie Graham was successfully appointed as Teacher of Technological Studies and will permanently join the school in August. Katie Taylor has been appointed as Acting Principal Teacher of Pupil Support to cover for maternity leave of Nicola McGinty. We have 3 other maternity leaves due to start in August. Linda McLuckie retired in February from our office after 32 years of service. Agnes O'Hare will also retire in June 2026 after 24 years of service.</p> <p><b>Performing Arts Showcase</b> This event will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 7pm-9pm and will feature dancers, musicians and singers from S1-6. Link to tickets is in this month's newsletter and has been emailed out to parents/carers.</p> <p><b>Stocking of sanitary products in toilets - update</b> Pre-Easter holidays Jennifer Di Mambro met with the janitorial staff to discuss the best way to proceed with the extra storage boxes for sanitary products in individual toilets. After consultation, it was decided that gluing the boxes to the back of each door, using Velcro strips or hooks over the top of each door would be impractical. These approaches have been tried in previous years. It was decided that small boxes would be attached to the walls in the first 2 toilets initially. However, due to vandalism in the junior toilet and after consultation with pupils, sanitary products will continue to be provided in the main section of the main toilets and in all of the accessible toilets across the school for now so pupils have privacy. This will be reviewed again at the end of term. We will also publicise to pupils that they can pick up packs of sanitary products from Mrs Barr, Mrs Di Mambro or Pupil Support to carry in their pockets/bag.</p> <p><b>Parental Engagement</b> May Newsletter was issued on 5<sup>th</sup> May.</p>	

## Inspection Feedback

Calderhead was inspected in December and the summary letter and full inspection findings were shared in March with parents/carers via groupcall.

<https://educationinspectorate.gov.scot/find-an-inspection-report/details/?id=1874>

HM Inspectors highlighted several areas of real strength in Calderhead High School. These reflect the commitment of staff, the positive ethos across the school, and the improving experiences of young people. They highlighted the following as the most important strengths:

### ★ **Strong, caring relationships and a welcoming school ethos**

Inspectors praised the warm, respectful relationships between staff and young people, noting that pupils feel well known, cared for, and supported in school. The school values - **Community, Ambition, Respect, Equity and Success (CARES)** - are clearly visible and shape behaviour, expectations, and the sense of belonging felt by pupils.

### ★ **Positive and calm learning environments**

Almost all pupils learn in calm, supportive classrooms where behaviour is positive, and pupils are increasingly engaged in their learning. A proactive, nurturing approach is helping young people manage their emotions and make positive choices.

### ★ **Effective leadership bringing stability and a clear direction**

The headteacher was recognised for providing strong, motivating leadership, particularly during recent staffing changes. A new senior leadership team is working well together, improving systems and creating positive momentum for school improvement. Staff feel valued, involved, and empowered to contribute.

### ★ **Growing leadership opportunities for pupils**

Young people, particularly in the senior phase, have meaningful roles such as captains, ambassadors, club leaders and contributors to pupil groups. These experiences help pupils build confidence and influence improvements in learning and teaching.

### ★ **Strong partnership working that benefits young people**

The school works very effectively with a wide range of community partners, supporting attendance, wellbeing, vocational learning and wider achievement. Partnerships also contribute meaningfully to school improvement.

### ★ **Wellbeing at the heart of the school**

Staff show a deep commitment to supporting young people's wellbeing, equality and inclusion. Young people report feeling safe, respected and included. Support plans, nurturing approaches and targeted interventions help learners with additional needs engage more successfully.

### ★ **Significant improvement in attendance and reductions in exclusions**

Attendance has risen steadily over the last three years, supported by strong systems and close work with families. Exclusions have reduced significantly, with inclusive approaches helping pupils stay connected to learning.

### ★ **Increasing opportunities for wider achievement**

A growing number of pupils gain recognition through awards such as Duke of Edinburgh, leadership awards, vocational qualifications, and national achievements in areas like sport and music. Pupils' successes are celebrated regularly, helping motivate even more participation.

### ★ **Positive destinations for school leavers**

Almost all young people move on to a positive destination after school—such as college, apprenticeships, university or employment—reflecting strong support and well-developed pathways.

While HM Inspectors have noted that trends in attainment data over the past 5 years mean they will return at a later date to review our progress, we want to reassure you that the school is moving in a very positive direction. The report reflects the many strengths, improvements, and the strong sense of community that define Calderhead High School. With the commitment of our staff, the hard work of our young people, and the ongoing support of our families, we are confident that we will continue to improve attainment and achieve the high standards we all aspire to—together.

### **Attainment**

During the inspection we were reviewed on 4 main themes and 2 smaller themes. One of the main themes was Q13.2 Raising Attainment & Achievement. The evidence for this was gathered from data, meetings & observations.

Attainment was reviewed over the following themes:

- Attainment in literacy and numeracy
- Attainment over time
- Overall quality of learners' achievement
- Equity for all learners

Whilst there was sufficient evidence for 3 themes, attainment over time was an ongoing concern due to a lack of trends and fluctuating grades year on year across departments over the past 5 years. Since January 25 we have implemented the following improvements to support attainment:

Tracking at whole school level - whole school overview

Data analysis across faculties

Raised profile of Attainment Improvement Group (New remit)

Annual Improvement Planning focus

SQA/presentation policy

Monitoring, tracking & reporting procedures

New whole school monitoring & tracking procedures

Self-Evaluation calendar – whole school & departmental level

Attainment meetings with HT & DHTs

Identification for targeted support

New support roles through PEF

Introduction of parent/carer events: study skills event

Introduction of accreditation for wider achievement

Staged approach with key focus on Literacy & Numeracy

New wider achievement awards

Reviewed option process and procedures

Cameron Mackay spoke about initiatives that have already been put in place to improve attainment and future plans. The primary focus remains on ensuring positive destinations for all students with a key priority to ensure that every young person leaves with a recognised qualification, eliminating the gap where students previously left with none. Cameron touched on initiatives such as the First Aid offering for young people and employability / work placement awards. Future initiatives will be implemented such as Wider Achievement Awards for each year group and formal accreditation for senior pupils taking on leadership roles.

### **Parental Engagement Update**

We are focussed on 3 key areas to improve parental engagement and are tracking performance against these areas, namely communication, response and events at each PC meeting.

**Parental Involvement and Engagement Audit Toolkit**

School: Calderhead HS Completed by: Jennifer Di Mambro (School) & Audra MacPhee (Parent Council)

Date Completed: 24/10/25 Date for Planned Review: October 2026

Choose selection of questions from above (eg)	How are we doing?	How do we know?	What are we going to do now?	When are we going to do it?
How effective are communication channels at delivering critical school and student specific information across the domains of education / support for learning, attendance / wellbeing, success / celebration?				
What steps could be taken to make it easier or more appealing for parents / carers to provide feedback and / or engage in dialogue after receiving feedback or contact with the school?				
How successful are our positive destination related school events (e.g. study skills workshops, DYW, careers events) in maximising attendance among target parent groups and driving specific parental actions and / or follow-up engagement?				

RAG System

Red- no evidence Yellow – Some evidence Green – Working well Purple- Working very well

Communication of events / information / successes from PC via FB / X. Attendance / support at Bingo event hosted by Senior Pupils. £454 was raised in total, including £100 from the grid organised by PC.

**Fundraising**

Easyfundraising has been running for 6 months now. We have 37 supporters and a total of £211.05 has been raised to date.

Continue to promote Easyfundraising:

- Regular reminders – parents / carers / staff / pupils / wider community.
- Updates on funds generated.
- Promote donation reminder to ensure supporters are earning for us.

AM

**AOB**

**Allanton School Bus:** a post circulating on social media has caused concern around the Allanton school service being withdrawn. SPT have confirmed that this is not the case, and that this bus will continue to transport young people to Calderhead. Communication to parents about bus schedules has been inconsistent in the past. Given that a high proportion of young people at Calderhead travel by bus, it would be good practice to provide parents with clear scheduling information in advance of the new academic year, particularly for new S1 families.

**Parent Council Vacancies:** as Gordon Muir and Audra MacPhee will demit office at the end of this academic year, the positions of Chairperson and Secretary will become vacant. These roles will be filled at the AGM, which is scheduled for September (date to be confirmed).

AM / JD

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting is Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 18:00, Calderhead HS, all parents / carers of pupils at CHS are invited to attend.